Alumni Columns

Magazine Spring 2005

Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Dr. Randall J. Webb, '65, '66
President
Northwestern State University

Dear Alumni:

One of the high-profile programs at Northwestern is our athletic program. And so far this year, the athletic program has represented your university well.

The Demons have won Southland Conference championships in football and men's basketball. The regular season title in men's basketball was the first in 31 years.

As gratifying as the success on the playing field is, one thing I am proud of is the work done in the classroom by our student-athletes. NSU recently led all Southland Conference schools by placing 61 student-athletes on the Fall Academic Honor Roll recognizing outstanding academic performance by competitors in football, volleyball, cross country and women's soccer.

The university also ranked above the national average in the NCAA's initial Academic Progress Rates report. Northwestern received a score of 951 on a 1,000-point scale, which said in essence that 95 percent of our student-athletes are doing a good job of positioning themselves to graduate. This report affirms our strong commitment to provide academic support for student-athletes, and the young people competing for Northwestern are here for the right reason.

Dr. Chris Maggio, '85, '91
Director Alumni and Development

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I can't believe that it has been almost a year since we unveiled the public phase of the *For a Brighter Tomorrow Capital Campaign* for Northwestern State University. This historic endeavor has been exciting because it has certainly raised the awareness of the importance of private giving to our beloved alma mater.

We have been so pleased over the past few months to have worked with several alumni, families, corporations, organizations and businesses in establishing scholarships and endowments with the university. We have highlighted some of the most recent gifts in this issue and will continue to emphasize others in future editions.

We have a wonderful university and a very proud group of alumni and supporters. It is a pleasure for us, as members of the NSU Alumni and Development staff, to go out and visit with you individually and in groups about NSU. Your enthusiasm certainly motivates our staff!

We hope that our initiatives (the *Alumni Columns* magazine, our monthly e-newsletter, alumni receptions in your communities, reunions and other alumni functions on campus, our northwesternalumni.com website, merchandise sales, etc.) are reaching you and other alumni of NSU. Certainly, please contact me if you have suggestions or ideas on how we can continue to grow and serve our many thousands of alumni. We look forward to your input!

Alumni Columns
Official Publication of
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana
Organized in 1884
A member of CASE
Volume XV Number 1 Spring 2005
The Alumni Columns (USPS 015480) is published 4 times a year by Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71497-0002
Periodicals Postage Paid at Natchitoches, La., and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Alumni Columns Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La. 71497-0002.
Alumni Office Phone: 318-357-4414
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FAX: 318-357-4225
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The Alumni Columns is published in spring, summer, fall and winter.
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Northwestern State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, Specialist and Doctorate degrees.

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Alumni COACHES

Northwestern's knack for producing prominent professional athletes is well documented. Going back to 1951, when Johnny "Hound" McConathy was the No. 5 pick in the NBA Draft, and continuing today with Terrence McGee's recent trip to the Pro Bowl and Brian Lawrence emerging as one of the top pitchers in the National League, former Demons have always grabbed more than their share of attention on the nation's sports scene.

That's also been true for many Northwestern alumni who have entered the coaching profession. NSU's traditional role in producing educators has spawned a large group of teacher/coaches, many who have been pacesetters in high school athletics. Johnny "Red" Robertson and Edna Tarbutton are enshrined in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame for their remarkable accomplishments as high school coaches in Louisiana. In the Hall of Fame for their tremendous collegiate coaching achievements at Northwestern are Dr. H. Lee Prather, Dr. Charles "Red" Thomas, and Coach Walter Ledet. Also enshrined is another NSU alumnus, Joe Aillet, who was Louisiana Tech's most revered football coach.

But even considering the many state championship prep teams and conference championship squads in college coached through the years by NSU alumni, there's never been a collection of Demons who have reached prominent levels in the coaching profession as we have today. Consider this impressive group of active coaches:

- Jim Wells, head baseball coach, University of Alabama Crimson Tide
- Mike Brey, head basketball coach, Notre Dame Fighting Irish
- Dr. Gayle Hatch, head men's weightlifting coach, 2004 USA Olympic Team
- Bill Johnson, defensive line coach, Atlanta Falcons, NFL
- Barry Rubin, strength coach, Green Bay Packers, NFL
- Ed Orgeron, head football coach, University of Mississippi Rebels

That doesn't include three alumni who are head coaches at their alma mater:

Stoker

Graf

Paz

- Scott Stoker, head coach, NSU Demon football
- Jennifer Graf, head coach, NSU Lady Demon basketball
- Willie Paz, head coach, NSU Lady Demon tennis

And there are 17 more former Demons working as assistant coaches at Northwestern — eight of the 16 assistants, counting graduate assistants and related staff, in football alone.

"It's something I made a priority when I was putting together my staff," said Stoker, named "Coach of the Year" in the Southland Conference and in Louisiana last fall after leading the Demons to the SLC title and a second Division I-AA playoff appearance in his three years as head coach.

"It means more to you, coaching at your alma mater, than anyplace else," he said. "You want to make the people you know the best proud of our school. But my bottom line is always to put together the best possible coaching staff, and I'm proud to say that the foundation we receive academically and the experiences we gain competing in athletics at Northwestern are a proven winning combination when it comes to producing outstanding coaches."

The headliners among the NSU alumni in coaching are an accomplished group. Wells has been the national collegiate baseball "Coach of the Year" while leading Alabama to three College World Series appearances, including a spot in the 1997 national championship game. He got the Alabama job after revitalizing Demon baseball, leading NSU to three Southland Conference titles in five seasons from 1990-94.

Brey, who played point guard for Coach Tynes Hildebrand's Demon basketball team from 1977-80, has brought Notre Dame back among the nation's more prominent college basketball programs after contributing to two national championships and six NCAA Final Four appearances as an assistant coach at Duke. In a recent national talk show appearance on Sporting News Radio, Brey credited his days at NSU playing for Hildebrand as crucial to his development into a successful coach.

Hatch's recent service as the USA Olympic men's weightlifting coach in the Athens Games was the pinnacle of his ongoing career as a strength and conditioning coach. Hatch was inducted into the USA Strength and Conditioning Coaches' Hall of Fame's inaugural 14-member class in August 2003, and the USA Olympic Weightlifting Federation Hall of Fame in April 2002. He received the 2005 NFL Strength & Conditioning Coaches' Society "President's Award" for his role in developing the profession. The Baton Rouge resident has won 12 national Coach of the Year honors from USA Weightlifting.

Johnson, Rubin and Orgeron were football teammates at Northwestern in the late 1970s. After ending his playing career before Johnson and Orgeron, Rubin became a protege of NSU assistant coach Al Miller, who was a student of strength and conditioning training, and Rubin quickly emerged as a trendsetting young strength coach himself. He, too, has been enshrined in the USA Strength and Conditioning Coaches' Hall of Fame as part of the inaugural 14-member class.

Johnson and Orgeron began coaching as student assistants at Northwestern in the early 1980s. They both played under coach A.L. Williams, with Orgeron playing his senior year for new coach Sam Goodwin in 1983, while Johnson worked as part of the coaching staff. Orgeron began coaching under Goodwin as soon as his playing days ended.

Fast friends, they quickly moved through the profession and each wound up at the University of Miami as the Hurricanes' football program was emerging as a national power in the late 1980s. Johnson spent several seasons at Texas A&M and worked at the University of Arkansas before Dan Reeves offered him a chance to jump to the NFL as the Falcons' defensive line coach. The Monroe native weathered the coaching change when Jim Mora Jr. took over as Atlanta's new head coach last year, and earned significant acclaim as the Falcons won their division title and reached the playoffs last season.

Orgeron is in his first year as head football coach at Ole Miss, already having galvanized the Rebels' fan base with his passionate approach to building a nationally-competitive program. That's something he knows from experience, having been named the national "recruiter of the year" while serving as assistant head coach and helping Southern California win two national titles. He also was part of two national championships at Miami.

Clearly, NSU is producing trendsetting coaches whose accomplishments are making headlines, in our own backyard, across the nation and even the world.

Alumni can become certified teachers through *Teach*Northwestern

*Teach*Northwestern, NSU's program to assist individuals to become teachers in Louisiana schools, seeks candidates who want to bring their career and life experiences into the classroom. Participants are not required to have a degree in education, as the program is designed for anyone with a college degree, from recent graduates to experienced professionals.

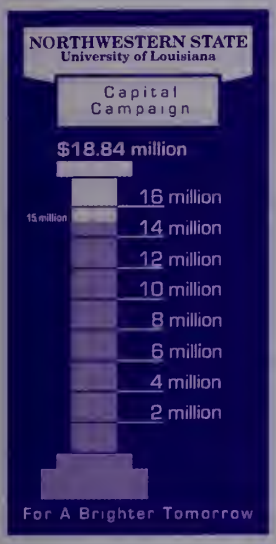
*Teach*Northwestern's alternative teacher certification programs include the Practitioner Teacher Program, during which individuals become certified while teaching full-time through an accelerated certification course.

However, two programs allow participants to keep working in their traditional jobs while becoming certified.

The Master's with Alternate Certification offers coursework leading to a Master of Art in Teaching degree and teacher certification in Elementary Education, Middle School Education, Secondary Education, or Mild/Moderate Special Education. This program offers traditional semester-long courses at night and online.

The Non-Master's pathway to Alternate Certification offers coursework leading to teacher certification in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle School Education, Secondary Education, or Mild/Moderate Special Education. This program is for those seeking a more flexible, non-degree alternate certification program.

For more information, contact April Matt at (318) 357-6014 or www.teachnorthwestern.org.



As of March, $15 million has been raised toward the $18.84 million For a Brighter Tomorrow Capital Campaign Goal. For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486.

Endowed Scholarship Established by LaCap

La Capitol Federal Credit Union presented a donation to the Northwestern State University Foundation to create the La Capitol Federal Credit Union Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will provide a student with $250 per semester starting this fall.

The scholarship is currently open to any major. The qualifications provide for a student in financial need maintaining a 2.5 grade point average.

"We understand the importance of attracting quality students to NSU through scholarships," said Karen Vines, La Capitol's Central Louisiana Regional Manager. "Hopefully, this contribution will ease the financial burden for one of tomorrow's leaders."

La Capitol Federal Credit Union is a federally chartered cooperative, membership-owned financial institution. It is owned by the members and directed by a board of volunteers. La Capitol is one of the largest credit unions in the state, serving more than 45,000 members through 10 offices statewide. It is the only credit union in Natchitoches and serves anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Natchitoches Parish.

Shown are La Capitol Central Louisiana Regional Manager Karen Vines, left, and Sharon Sampité, assistant director of Institutional Advancement at NSU.

"The Natchitoches branch of La Capitol has been in existence since 1985, starting in a small office on Amulet Street and has enjoyed a relationship with NSU that goes back into the 1970s," Vines said. "We now have a location on Keyser Avenue and will soon have an additional location on College Avenue across from the University."

La Capitol began as a tiny credit union operating in the sub-basement of the Louisiana State Capitol. Members called their credit union "La Capitol" meaning "the capitol."

"Fostering relationships like this one between Northwestern and La Capitol is a win-win situation," said Sharon Sampit , assistant director of institutional advancement at NSU. "La Capitol is investing in today's students who will become tomorrow's workforce. La Capitol's contribution will help a promising individual with a bright future ahead."

Journalism Scholarship Endowed

An endowment to the Northwestern State University Foundation from Mr. and Mrs. John A. Manno Jr. of Bossier City has created the Michael Peter Manno Memorial Scholarship in journalism. The endowment was created with an initial gift of $10,000. The ideal candidate for the scholarship is a college junior or senior, preferably from Caddo or Bossier Parish, who has strong interest in community involvement.

"It's intended for a person who not only excels academically, but also someone who is outgoing and participates in school activities, whether they are involved in a fraternity or sorority, athletics or other campus organizations and activities," Manno said.

The recipient "would be an upperclassman who has excelled not only in his or her chosen career path but also excelled in extracurricular ventures outside the professional degree program. In other words a person who is very well-rounded," said Dr. Steve Horton, chair of the Department of Journalism.

Shown from left are Department of Journalism Chair Dr. Steve Horton, Mr. and Mrs. Manno and Dr. Chris Maggio, NSU director of Alumni and Development.

"When I graduated from college, one thing I wanted to do was give back to the community. This is something I can do," Manno said. "I would like to continue contribution to the scholarship over the next couple of years so that the endowment would pay a full scholarship to the student for a full year."

"This scholarship illustrates that a quality education is about more than academics. It's about getting involved, staying socially conscious and becoming a productive member of society," said Dr. Chris Maggio, director of Alumni and Development.

Manno is vice president and co-owner of Southland Printing in Shreveport, a family-owned business that produces parking lot/parking garage tickets used by most every major private parking operator and public parking authority in the United States, including major airports in the United States and abroad.

Manno graduated from Northwestern in 1978 and was among the last students to earn an associate degree in printing technology before the program was discontinued. He also earned an associate degree in business administration. As a student, Manno was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and lettered for being a student trainer for the football team, earning him a spot in the Graduate "N" Club. His service to NSU has continued through his affiliation with the NSU Alumni Association, the NSU President's Council, the NSU Athletic Association and the NSU Foundation Board.

Manno holds many professional organization memberships and has been active in the Krewe of Gemini, Volunteers of America, the Strand Theatre Board, the American Red Cross, his church and many charitable and business organizations.

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Manno is married to the former Carol Lynne Averre, who also attended NSU, and the couple has two children, John Anthony "Jay" Manno III, a freshman at Northwestern, and Bianca Marie "Mary" Manno. The scholarship is named for the couple's first child.

Shown from left are Alliance Compressor Plant Manager Bill Videtto, NSU's Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement Sharon Sampité, Director of Alumni and Development Dr. Chris Maggio and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb.

Scholarship Endowed by Local Company

Alliance Compressors of Natchitoches has coordinated a $10,000 endowment to the Northwestern State University Foundation that will be used to create the Alliance Compressors Endowed Scholarship. The funds were awarded through the Emerson Trust Fund, the charitable trust of Alliance's parent company, Copeland Corporation.

The scholarship will be awarded annually. First preference will be given to a student in the Department of Engineering Technology, with second preference being a student in the College of Business.

"The availability of good people coming out of Northwestern is a big attraction to Alliance," said Bill Videtto, plant manager at Alliance. "There are lots of good recruits that come out of Northwestern." In addition to a person in need of financial aid, Videtto said the ideal recipient would be someone who is sincere, honest and possesses genuine, good character.

Since Alliance opened in 1998, the company and Northwestern have worked together to provide professional development opportunities for employees who participate in certification programs or are earning degrees in electronics engineering technology or industrial engineering technology.

"Companies like Alliance are important to the community in so many ways. By providing this endowment, Northwestern is able to offer financial aid to a promising student who may then use his or her training to embark on a successful career right here in Natchitoches," said Sharon Sampité, assistant director of institutional advancement at NSU.

ROTC Scholarship Established by Former Instructor's Spouse

The wife of a former ROTC instructor at Northwestern State University found a way to continue helping the program her husband was part of for many years. A donation of $5,000 has been made to the NSU Foundation for the James A. Noe Cadet Fund at Northwestern from the estate of Maxine Peterson Port.

Port was the widow of Sgt. Raymond Sylvan Port, a long-time ROTC instructor at Northwestern, who passed away in 1999.

The donation will allow the Noe Cadet Fund to provide four $500 scholarships to ROTC students at Northwestern.

"It is nice to know that people remember the battalion after many years," said Lt. Col. Teresa Galgano, commander of the Demon Battalion and professor of military science at NSU. "Many of our cadets come off active duty and struggle to make ends meet with a family and other obligations. Being able to receive a scholarship can make a huge difference for them."

Northwestern's ROTC program has earned a ranking among the top 10 percent of all programs nationwide based on its commissioning rate, enrollment, retention, cadet quality, Leader Training Course recruiting and National Leader Advanced Camp Performance.

"This donation will allow some of the cadets to focus on their training and academic endeavors instead of worrying about a part-time job," said Cadet Lt. Col. Nathan Jennings of Palmer, Alaska, the cadet battalion commander. "Seeing people willing to give back inspires us and links us to the past of the Demon Battalion. It is inspiring."

Deer Hunt Helps Fund Scholarships

Proceeds from the first annual Northwestern State University-Serenity Point Deer Hunt will be used to create two scholarships at NSU. Funds generated were divided between the NSU Foundation and the NSU Athletic Association to create the Dan and Lilly Chase Serenity Point Academic Scholarship and the Dan and Lilly Chase Serenity Point Athletic Scholarship.

Both scholarships are under development, according to Dr. Chris Maggio, director of Alumni and Development, and Charlie Vienne, assistant athletic director for External Affairs.

Dan and Lilly Chase

The Serenity Point Deer Hunt is a fund raiser in which donors who contribute $3,500 each to the University Foundation receive a three-day hunting trip at Serenity Point, a lodge in the Tunica Hills owned by Dan and Lilly Chase. The trip includes meals, lodging and hunting in the wooded hills along the Mississippi River and a visit with Demon head football coach Scott Stoker. The Deer Hunt is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Chase, NSU Alumni and Development and the NSU Athletic Association. The inaugural Hunt took place in early January.

Carlton Golden, who took his 11-year-old son Levi along on the Deer Hunt, said the experience was wonderful.

"It was a great time for both of us. We both had

time to relax and visit more than we usually do at home," Golden said. "When you sit in a deer stand for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon with your son, you share some quality time that is like none other. Levi is already talking about next year."

Also participating were Mike Knotts of Haughton, a 1986 graduate of NSU; his son Christopher,14, and friend Michael Waldron, 21.

"We had a great time with good food and good camaraderie in a great place. It was something my son and I could do together," Knotts said. "Anytime I can give money to help a student fund their education I'm happy to do it. There are so many kids today that can't afford to go to college. When you donate money and have a good time to boot, what's better?"

The Chases are generous supporters of Northwestern. Mr. Chase, who is from Baton Rouge, is a 1957 graduate of Northwestern. Mr. Chase is a retired educator who is now chairman and chief executive officer of Dan Chase Taxidermy Supply Co Inc. He has served as a member of the NSU Foundation Board of Directors and is a member of the NSU President's Council and the Select 100.

Last year, a donation from the Chases to NSU created the Dan and Lilly Chase and daughters Marty Causey and Lisa Chase Endowed Professorship in the College of Education. The Chases have supported the university by hosting alumni meetings and NSU recruitment events at their home.

"Besides having an exceptional outdoors experience, the donors who participated in the Serenity Point Deer Hunt know their generosity is being used to further both athletics and academics," said Dr. Chris Maggio, director of Alumni and Development.

Scholarship Established to Assist Winn Parish Student

A scholarship in memory of longtime Winn Parish educator Lanis D. Carpenter has been established with a donation to the Northwestern State University Foundation.

The Lanis D. Carpenter Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a freshman at NSU from Winn Parish based on financial need. The scholarship will rotate between graduates of Winnfield Senior High School, Calvin High School, Dodson High School and Atlanta High School.

nn Carpenter, Dr. Chris Maggio and lly Carpenter

Carpenter was a graduate of Calvin High School where he was an all-state player in basketball and baseball. He earned a bachelor's degree, master's degree and plus-30 at Northwestern.

After teaching and coaching in Huttig, Ark., for one year, he returned to Calvin High School in 1972. Carpenter taught and coached at Calvin until 1984. He then served as the school's principal until 1994. While serving as principal, he was named to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Executive Committee.

In 1994, he was named supervisor of secondary education in Winn Parish. Carpenter passed away in 1995. He posthumously received the LHSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

"Our family has strong ties to Northwestern and this is one way to maintain what has become a family tradition," said John Carpenter, the son of Lanis D. Carpenter. "There are always students who need help to attend college. We want the scholarship to go to a hard worker who doesn't get a lot of support, but can succeed if they just get some help."

John Carpenter, along with his sister Holly Carpenter and mother Glenda Carpenter Melton, thanked numerous Winn Parish residents and friends of his father who contributed towards the scholarship along with Wayne Melton who managed and oversaw the scholarship funds.

"It was overwhelming that so many people wanted to show how they loved and appreciated my father," said Holly Carpenter. "Our family feels that it is very important to give back to Winn Parish which was a place my father loved. We were happy to create this scholarship at Northwestern because my father had such a good time there."

To make a donation to the Lanis D. Carpenter Memorial Scholarship, contact the NSU Foundation, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497 or call (318) 357-4414. Donations should indicate they are for the Carpenter Scholarship.

Point Coupee Parish Students Can Benefit from Endowed Scholarship

A donation to the Northwestern State University Foundation from Keith and Julie Bergeron will benefit a freshman majoring in business or education.

The Bergeron scholarship will be endowed in three years at the $10,000 level and will be awarded to a student from Pointe Coupee Parish, where the Bergerons are from, starting this fall. The Bergerons grew up in New Roads in the rural parish and attended Northwestern State.

Keith and Julie Bergeron

Keith Bergeron attended NSU from 1970-74 and earned a degree in business. He worked in banking in Baton Rouge and New Roads before moving to Shreveport in 1994 to manage Hibernia National Bank's retail banking division in northwest Louisiana. He was later promoted to northwest Louisiana regional chairman with responsibility for Hibernia's banking activities in a nine-parish area.

Mr. Bergeron serves on the NSU Foundation Board

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and the Dean's Advisory Board for the College of Business. He was instrumental in coordinating the Hibernia National Bank Professorship in Business. He was inducted into the NSU College of Business Hall of Distinction in 2000.

Dr. Julie Bergeron attended NSU from 1972-1974 majoring in elementary education and finished her degree at Louisiana State University in 1975. She has since earned three other degrees from LSU, including a Ph.D. last year. She was the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Winner for Louisiana in 1996 and received a Fulbright Memorial Fund Fellowship to study in Japan in 2001. She was Teacher of the Year in Caddo Parish in 1996-97 and is currently principal at First Baptist Church School.

"Pointe Coupee is a pretty small, rural parish but there are always some students from there who want to attend Northwestern," Mr. Bergeron said.

The ideal candidate for the scholarship would be "a model student who would be a lifelong learner, someone who wants to impact the future," Dr. Bergeron said. "We hope this small gift will get them off to a great start at a great university."

"This scholarship will provide a valuable opportunity for a student from a rural area to pursue one of two vocations that are vital to the future or our state," said Dr. Chris Maggio, director of Alumni and Development. "Recipients of this scholarship will hopefully use it to follow in the footsteps of the Bergerons by pursuing leadership roles in business and education in Louisiana."

Endowed Scholarship Remembers Natchitoches Businessman

An endowed scholarship has been established in memory of Natchitoches businessman and civic leader Pat S. Todd Sr. at Northwestern State University. The scholarship was created with a donation to the NSU Foundation by the Todd family.

Pat Todd, Jr., Patricia Todd and Dr. Chris Maggio

The Pat S. Todd Sr. Scholarship will be awarded initially to a freshman business major at NSU. First preference will go to a Natchitoches Parish resident. The recipient must have a 3.0 high school grade point average and maintain a 2.5 average at Northwestern.

Todd, who passed away in November 2004, was a graduate of Northwestern in business administration. While at Northwestern, Todd was a member of Phi Kappa Nu Fraternity and took part in Pi Kappa Phi activities. He was in ROTC and was a member of the NSU swim team and the gymnastics team.

Todd was a member of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. He was business manager for the W.T. "Pat" Todd Texaco Distributorship in Natchitoches from 1963 until 1972 and was owner and operator of Pat S. Todd Oil Company from 1972 until 1991.

He was a member of the board of directors and past president of the Louisiana Oil Marketers Association and received the President's Award for distinguished service.

A former scoutmaster, Todd was a member of the Gordon Peters American Legion Post 10 for many years. He served as commissioner of public safety for the City of Natchitoches from 1972 until 1976 and was councilman at large from 1976 until 1980.

Todd was a former member of the board of directors of Exchange Bank and Trust of Natchitoches. He was chairman of the Cane River Waterway Commission, president of the Natchitoches Parish Port Commission, president of the Natchitoches Kiwanis Club and the Natchitoches Parish Chamber of Commerce. Todd also served as secretary of the Correction Facilities Corporation for the state of Louisiana.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church and the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.

Donations may be made to the Pat S. Todd Sr. Scholarship at the NSU Foundation, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497. Donors should indicate the contribution is for the Todd Scholarship. For more information, call (318) 357-4414.

Scholarship Established for Future Educators

The family of Mildred and A.J. Burns gave a great deal of thought to how to honor their parents. They concluded the best way would be to assist future educators through a college scholarship. The Burns family recently established the Mildred and A.J. Burns Scholarship through the Northwestern State University Foundation.

Both Mildred and A.J. Burns were deeply involved in education. Mildred Burns was an educator for 30 years. A.J. Burns was a member of the Bossier Parish School Board for 18 years.

Henry Burns, Carrie Beth Burns and Dr. Chris Maggio

"We thought it was natural to create a scholarship to honor our parents," said Henry Burns of Haughton, a son of Mildred and A.J. Burns, who along with his brother, also named A.J., was a major contributor to the scholarship. "All of my children and their spouses attended Northwestern and all but one child graduated from Northwestern so it seemed like a neat thing to do."

A.J. Burns is from West Monroe.

"My mother loved Northwestern and was very interested in the university," said Henry Burns. We thought this would set an example for others and would create a legacy because both of them were committed to education."

Henry Burns is a member of the Bossier Parish School Board. He has also served on the NSU Alumni Association and the NSU Foundation Board of Directors. Henry Burns and his son Jamie are also members of the NSU President's Council.

SPOTLIGHT

Two Nursing Graduates Reunite

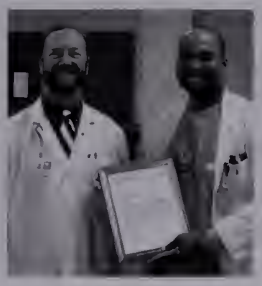
Two 1960 nursing graduates **Linda C. Murphey** and **Martha Lloyd Breedlove** met quite by accident at a family reunion not long ago. After meeting and finding out they were both nurses, they were surprised to figure out they were NSU classmates as well. Breedlove is married to Murphey's second cousin, whom Murphey had never met.

NSU Alumna and Natchitoches Native's Picture Book Wins Children's Book of the Year Award

Denise Patrick

Ma Dear's Old Green House, a picture book written by **Denise Lewis Patrick** and illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler (published by Just Us Books, Inc.) was awarded the Children's Book of the Year honor by the African American Academy of Arts and Letters. The award was presented on Thursday, February 17, 2005, at the Academy's Onyx Awards Dinner. Sponsored annually, the Onyx Awards honor African American writers for outstanding literary achievement.

Robert Freeman ('92) and **Frank Saunders** ('96), NSU graduates, are West Monroe High School Band directors. Their band, considered one of the premier marching bands in the South, marched in the Inaugural Parade in January.



NSU Alumnus to study neurosurgery

NSU alumnus **Cedrick Shorter,** right, has been accepted into the neurosurgery training program at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport as a first year intern. He ranked fourth overall in his medical school class at LSU upon graduation this year. Shorter earned an undergraduate degree in biology at Northwestern in 1997. While at NSU, Shorter played trumpet in the Spirit of Northwestern marching band. On behalf of Northwestern, Jeff Shideler, RN, presented Shorter with a letter of congratulations from NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb and a gift package from NSU. Shideler is clinical coordinator in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at LSUHSC-Shreveport and a 1979 graduate of Northwestern.

NSU Athletes finish first in academics

Northwestern State leads all 13 Louisiana public four-year institutions, tops the 11 Southland Conference member institutions and is solidly ahead of the pace among the nation's 326 NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics programs in the NCAA's initial Academic Progress Rates (APR) report announced Feb. 28.

Donation and Matching Grant Endows Nursing Scholarship

The Armand and Docia Lestage LaCour Endowed Scholarship for a student in the College of Nursing has been established at Northwestern State University. The scholarship, made possible through a donation to the NSU Foundation from the Rev. Doyle and Barbara Bailey of Natchez, honors Mrs. Bailey's grandparents. A matching donation was made through the Rapides Foundation.

Selection for the $1,200 per year scholarship is based on academic standing, grade point average and demonstrated potential for outstanding contributions to the nursing field. The recipient must be a Louisiana resident and must maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Ann Falcone of Shreveport was selected as the first recipient of the scholarship.

"Nursing is important because my grandmother was such a caregiver," Mrs. Bailey said. "She took care of children, grandchildren, neighbors. A nursing scholarship is a way to honor that and make it last."

Mrs. Bailey comes from a family of caregivers, which she and her many relatives attribute to her grandparents' influence. Armand and Docia Lestage LaCour, long-time residents of the Cane River area, both lived into their 90s and were an example to many generations of people, Mrs. Bailey said. The scholarship also honors Mrs. Bailey's mother, Estelle "Susie" Parsons, 89, who dreamed of becoming a nurse, but decided to forego her education to support her family.

"We chose nursing because of that aspect and because of awareness that there was a need and a shortage," she said.

Dr. Norann Planchock, Doyle Bailey, Anne Falcone, Barbara Bailey and Tony Gustwick

Rev. Bailey is a trustee for the Rapides Foundation, an organization that works diligently to improve education, health and the arts in the central Louisiana area. A portion of the funds for the scholarship came from the Rapides Foundation, in keeping with that organization's mission of wellness, Bailey said.

"Through my work with the Rapides Foundation, I noticed nursing shortages and lack of funds available in nursing education," Rev. Bailey said.

"Recognizing the significant role of nursing in the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care within Louisiana, the Baileys chose to impact health care," said Dr. Norann Planchock, dean of NSU's College of Nursing. "Through this endowed scholarship, a nursing student will be supported each year that has the potential to make lifelong contributions as a nurse."

Alumni GATHERINGS

Hollywood Alumni Party:

Alumni attending a reception in Hollywood included Debbie Cost ('95) Reatha Cole Cox ('87, '94), Dwayne Jones ('96) and Amy Lyddy ('99, '02).

NSU alumni from all over the country met in Hollywood for a gathering.

Alexandria Alumni Gathering at Tunk's Cypress Inn

Gary and Ann ('80) Gresham and Nancy Weimer ('78) caught up at Tunk's Cypress Inn.

Mae ('74, '82) and Leroy Williams ('74) attended the Alexandria Alumni Gathering at Tunk's Cypress Inn.

Chip and Linda Perot ('58, '64) mingled at the Alexandria Alumni Gathering.

Anthony ('04) and Astrid Ardian ('03) enjoyed dinner at Tunk's Cypress Inn.

Recruiting Receptions:

Hosts Mike ('86) and Susanne Knotts welcomed prospective Bossier Area students into their home.

Dr. John ('63) and Jeanne Bolin opened their home for the Lafayette Recruiting and Alumni Reception.

A group of NSU alumni gathered for the Lafayette area recruiting and alumni reception included (front) Mary Beth McDonald ('81), Jan Carboni ('75), Bryan Alleman ('00), (center) Molly Beach ('02), Nick Darbonne ('02), (back) Chad Barrios ('95) and Susanna ('96,'98) and Mark ('98) Deshotel.

Julie ('89), Connor and Ricky ('85) Walmsley opened their home to prospective students and alumni at the Covington Recruiting and Alumni Reception.

Marty Chase Causey, with her parents, hosts Dan ('57) and Lilly Chase, at the Baton Rouge Alumni Recruiting Reception.

NSU alumni and friends gathered at the New Orleans Recruiting Reception hosted by Johnny Carmouche. Shown are Edie Sirmon, Jesette Sirmon, Quin Sirmon ('94), Carmouche, Hillary Willrodt, KC Sirmon ('02), Will Sirmon and Erin Sirmon.

Shreveport Capital Campaign Party

Krista and Mark ('75) Wilburn attended the Shreveport Area Capital Campaign Party.

Amy and Allen ('89) Evans and Phillip Cole ('70) gathered at the Shreveport Area Capital Campaign Party.

Baton Rouge Capital Campaign Party

Charles Tassin ('55) and Sue Rainer ('60) attended a celebration of Northwestern's Capital Campaign.

Manship Williams ('70), Dianna Lehr Phillips ('71) and Al Phillips ('71) met with other Baton Rouge alumni in celebration of the For a Brighter Tomorrow Capital Campaign.

Beth McMillan Fraser ('85), Juanita Martinez Coutee ('58) and Ellis Coutee ('60) gathered with other NSU alumni at the Baton Rouge Capital Campaign Party.

Ryan Roberson ('99), Jason St. Germain ('02), Tracy Bison, Richard Armstrong ('01) and Jourdan Raacke ('02) met with other alumni to learn how to assist in the For a Brighter Tomorrow Capital Campaign.

Baton Rouge Alumni Party:

Ann ('04) and Edwin ('01, '03) Lagarde, KJ Hebert ('01) and Connie Reeves ('04) attended the Baton Rouge Alumni Party at Mike Andersons.

Paula ('73) and Cecil ('58) Johnson and Fran ('56) and Frank Bergeron caught up with old friends at the Baton Rouge Alumni Party.

AJ Kennedy ('98), Amy Parker Wall ('99), Brian Whaley ('00) and Jodie Christmas Drefahl ('99) reunited at the Baton Rouge Alumni Party annually held at Mike Andersons.

Sherry Cannon ('71), Janet Langlois ('71) and Gail Adkins ('95) gathered at the Baton Rouge Alumni Party.

Baton Rouge Alumni Party attendants included (front) Susan Ferguson ('70), Linda Williams, Claire Mahfouz Reynolds, (back) Robert Lea, Essie ('70) and Larry Cockerell, Lela Mae Lea Wilkes ('68) and Manship Williams ('70).

Texas Music Educators Association

Anthony ('94) and Jennifer ('99) Guffey attended the annual NSU alumni reception hosted in conjunction with the Texas Music Educators Association Conference.

Texas alumni who attended the reception at TMEA included (front) Paula Brown ('99), Ann Klas, (back) David Thompson ('03), Jessica Gatnez ('01), Adam Bird ('94) and Michelle Walters ('01).

Mary Gibson ('03), Julie Gilfour ('03) and Kristen McLaurin ('04) attended the TMEA alumni reception.

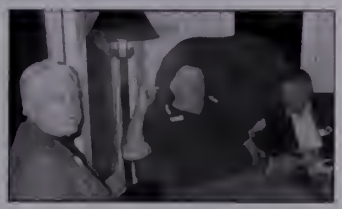
Serenity Point

NSU alumni and friends gathered at Serenity Point for the Deer Hunt were Jeff Martin, Dan Chase ('57), Levi Golden, Carlton Golden, Mike Knotts ('86), Christopher Knotts, Michael Waldron, Scott Stoker ('91) and Charlie Vienne ('91).

Bossier Capital Campaign:

Charles Knicely ('71) visited with Bill Schwartz ('68) host of the Bossier Area Capital Campaign Party.

Chris ('85) and Sherri Lee stopped for a picture during the Bossier Area Capital Campaign.



John McConathy ('51), Jimmy Patterson ('59) and Mark Montgomery ('70) caught up during the Bossier Area Capital Campaign Party.

College of Business Reaccredited

Northwestern State University's College of Business has achieved reaffirmation of accreditation by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International for six years, the longest period granted by the organization.

AACSB is a not-for-profit corporation of educational institutions, corporations and other organizations devoted to the promotion and improvement of higher education in business administration and management. Organized in 1916, AACSB International is the premier accrediting agency for bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs in business administration and accounting.

To achieve accreditation, business programs must satisfy the expectations of a wide range of quality standards relating to strategic management of resources, interactions of faculty and students in the educational process, and achievement of learning goals in degree programs. These standards are mission-linked. During the accreditation process, NSU was visited and evaluated by business school deans with detailed knowledge of management education, applying accreditation standards that are widely accepted in the educational community.

"Earning reaccreditation is a wonderful achievement for the College of Business," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "The College of Business has been a driving force at the university and has brought a great deal of positive national and international attention to Northwestern. The faculty, staff and students are extremely dedicated and this has led to Northwestern becoming a prime destination for many companies seeking bright, capable employees."

According to Dr. Joel Worley, dean of the College of Business, AACSB commended the College of Business for its focused mission, its efforts to achieve excellence as shown by the computer information systems program and the development of a reasonable financial plan.

"We are extremely pleased to gain reaccreditation," said Worley. "We came out of the process as well as we could have.

"The team found that there is a strong work ethic by the faculty, students and staff within the College of Business. They indicated that there was a high commitment to learning and that the faculty was willing to work with the students to meet high expectations."

Northwestern's efforts at economic development through its Small Business Development Center were also commended. The SBDC was recently cited as the state's most productive, generating 62 percent of loan production and 47 percent of total capitalization obtained by the 13 Small Business Development Centers in Louisiana.

Worley said that AACSB is one of the toughest accrediting agencies in higher education.

"Only about one-third of the business programs at U.S. colleges and universities have earned AACSB accreditation – about 400 out of 1,200," he said.

"Accreditation shows that we have an active faculty who is conducting research and developing a body of intellectual capital."

Worley pointed out that AACSB has expanded its scope and now accredits nearly 200 institutions outside the United States.

"The College of Business at NSU meets or exceeds international standards," he said. "Dr. Barry Smiley and Dr. Carroll Aby started the process of building a high quality College of Business. We are determined to continue improving the program."

The College of Business will submit Maintenance of Accreditation Report to AACSB annually and will receive a visit from the association in five years.

Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern's College of Education Alumni Advisory Board is seeking nominations for its Hall of Distinguished Educators for 2005. The inductees will participate in the NSU homecoming activities this fall. If you know of an outstanding alumni of Northwestern who has had a distinguished career in the field of education please contact Dr. Cathy Seymour by calling (318) 357-6278, or by mail at College of Education (TEC), Office of Field Experiences, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497.

Golden Jubilee Planned

The Northwestern State University Alumni Association will honor this year's Golden Jubilee class, alumni who graduated in 1955, by hosting a 50-year reunion May 6-7.

In addition to two days of planned activities, 1955 graduates will be recognized during the university's 120th commencement exercises on Friday, May 6, according to Dr. Chris Maggio, director of Alumni and Development.

"Those who remember dances at the Field House, watermelon parties and catching the train to attend the State Fair game in Shreveport are invited back to rekindle those memories with their classmates," Maggio said. "We want as many 1955 graduates as possible to return to Natchitoches for this celebration in their honor."

The Alumni Association is seeking assistance in locating members of the Class of 1955. Anyone with information on classmates should call Maggio at 888-799-6486 or e-mail maggioc@nsula.edu.

Specific details about reunion activities, as well as a list of accommodations and an RSVP form, are available through the Alumni Center by calling the phone number listed above.

Athlete reunions dates set for Fall 2005

Athletes who competed in fall sports at Northwestern are invited back to campus this fall for their annual sport reunion weekends. These gatherings may feature teams celebrating anniversaries, but they are designed to provide a chance for all former athletes, coaches, trainers and managers in a particular sport to return to campus to renew friendships and meet the current coaches and athletes.

This year's Demon football reunion activities will be Saturday, Sept. 24 as the Demons play host to Texas Southern in a 6 p.m. game at Turpin Stadium. That same weekend, the NSU Demon soccer reunion will be held as the 2005 soccer team plays host to North Texas on Friday evening, Sept. 23, and conference rival Stephen F. Austin on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 25.

The volleyball and cross country reunions are Oct. 28-29. That weekend, the volleyball team will play host to Southeastern on Friday night and Nicholls State on Saturday afternoon before a home football game against Northeastern at 6 p.m. on Oct. 29.

Reunion dates for other sports in the 2005-06 athletic year will be announced in the next edition of the Alumni Columns. Check www.nsudemons.com for more information about the reunion for your favorite sport, and to provide your contact information to the athletic department to get you on the invitation list for all future activities.

Rad-Tech Program Reaccredited

Northwestern State University's radiologic technology program has maintained its eight-year accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. The program was accredited in 1999 and will receive a site visit in 2007. An accreditation period of eight years is the longest granted by the Joint Review Committee.

"This was an interim report to judge whether the program was maintaining standards," said Program Director Laura Carwile. "After a review, the JRCERT determined that Northwestern's program continued to meet the highest national standards."

According to Carwile, the committee did not require a full self-study, but did examine Northwestern's program closely.

"This is a very rigorous review," said Carwile.

"An eight-year accreditation is difficult to achieve, so we can feel good about the quality of education provided by the faculty and clinical partners in the radiologic technology program as well as the high caliber of students and graduates."

This year, NSU has enrolled its largest class in radiologic technology clinicals as 30 students began clinicals in Shreveport and 10 more started in Alexandria. The program has also maintained a 100 percent pass rate on the Registry Exam required for licensure for the second year.

Northwestern is one of 28 bachelor's programs in radiologic technology in the U.S. accredited by JRCERT.

JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education to accredit educational programs in radiography and radiation therapy. According to the Joint Review Committee, accreditation of an educational program provides students, as well as graduates, assurance that the educational program will provide them with the requisite knowledge, skills, and values to competently perform the range of professional responsibilities expected by potential employers nationwide. It also assures they will be eligible for licensure in all 50 states. By requiring programs to teach the entire curriculum developed by the professional society, the American Society of Radiologic Technology, it also assures students they will have the foundation knowledge to continue to develop as professionals in the various fields of the radiation sciences.

Basketball Paradise

The NSU Alumni Association and the NSU Athletic Association are putting together a package for anyone who would like to attend the 2005 Outriggers Rainbow Classic at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu Dec. 20-23.

Now in its 41st year, the Rainbow Classic is the longest-running eight-team tournament in the country. Participants in this year's tournament are NSU, University of Hawaii, Iowa State University, Colorado State University, Western Michigan University, Oregon State University, University of South Florida and Loyola Marymount University.

For more information contact
Charlie Vienne
357-4295
or
viennec@nsula.edu.

Football Season Tickets on Sale

After winning the Southland Conference football championship last season, the Northwestern State Demons will play six home games during the 2005 season with Coach Scott Stoker welcoming back many of his top players for another run at the title. Season tickets go on sale this spring beginning with the renewal phase, with season ticket holders from last season given a May 1 deadline to reclaim their seat locations for the upcoming season. Unclaimed seats will go on sale to the public in May. Ticket prices fit every budget and are linked to seat locations, ranging from the VIP indoor box seats to chairback season tickets in the lower deck west side, and locations on the east (student side) and the west side upper deck. For specific locations and price ranges, visit www.nsudemons.com and click on the "buy tickets" button, or contact Chris Laurence at the NSU athletic ticket office (318-357-4268).

Terrence McGee ('99) became the eighth former NSU Demon football player to compete in the NFL's Pro Bowl all-star game earlier this year. He enjoyed a week in Honolulu as the kick return specialist and a cornerback for the AFC Team in the Pro Bowl televised by ESPN. McGee played for the Demons from 1999-2002, earning All-America honors as a kick returner and defensive back and setting the NCAA Division I-AA career record for best punt return average.

Alumni Updates

1925
Marie E. Toups is a retired teacher and principal and lives in Lockport.

1952
Janice Marie Tucker Rabalais is a retired assistant professor, married and lives in Village Mills, Texas.

1953
Henry Cook Taylor is retired, married and lives in Natchitoches.

Janis M. Smith Monk is a retired speech pathologist, married and lives in Bossier City.

1954
Joanne Mears James is a retired nurse, married and lives in Alexandria.

1956
Harry B. Moore is retired, married to Betty Lou Smith Moore ('56) and lives in Shreveport.

Katherine L. Brumley is retired, married and lives in Converse.

1960
Weldon Middleton is an examination specialist for Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and lives in Germantown, Tenn.

1964
Carlyon Sue McCain is a nurse manager for the Veterans Affairs Hospital and lives in Pineville.

1965
Judith Elaine Young Ahearn is a consumer liaison for Volunteers of America and lives in Shreveport.

1967
Ken Carroll is a registered nurse at Christus Coushatta Health Care and lives in Campti.

1969
Dr. Kathleen R. Aguillard Stevens is a professor and director of the academic center for evidence-based nursing at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She received the Texas Nurse of the Year Award from the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) in ceremony on September 16, 2004. Dr. Stevens lives in San Antonio, Texas.

1970
Alvin Leake is a pressure equipment consultant for Vessel Statistics and lives in Slidell.

Shelia Beth Johnson Jones is a third grade teacher at North DeSoto Elementary and lives in Shreveport.

1971
Leroy Delmar Sutton Jr. is a pilot for United Parcel Service, married and lives in Hendersonville, Tenn.

1972
R.L. Colvard is employed at Weatherford as a global products line manager for cementation products. He is married and lives in Tomball, Texas.

Joseph Petrus is the owner of Petrus Energy Company and lives in Conroe, Texas.

1973
Kenny Hrapmann is an assistant football coach and head track coach at Jesuit High School in New Orleans. He is married to Patty Wiggins Hrapmann ('73) and lives in Destrehan.

Mark G. Hanna is the principal partner and owner of Customer First P.R. & Consulting and lives in Houston.

1981
Edward T. Milligan is retired from the military, an award winning poet and versatile author having published two books.

James B. (Jim) Akin is the global facilities H.S.E. for Conoco Phillips, married to Lee W. Akin ('81) and lives in Houston.

Linda Lee Ware Akin is the registrar at Horne Elementary

Marie Toups (`25)

Marie Toups, a 1925 graduate of Northwestern State University, celebrated her 100th birthday in December.

Toups left Northwestern with a teaching certificate in hand and headed straight for the classroom. She was in the educational system in Lafourche parish for 46 years. She served as a teacher and principal in public schools for 22 years and taught in private Catholic schools until she retired.

She has been very active in her community. Toups is a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary founded in 1917. She is a member of Ladies Alter Society, Catholic Daughters of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars. She has worked the polls in many elections in Lafourche parish. In 1972 she received the Lions Club citizen of the year award. She has held leadership positions several times in these organizations.

While she attended Northwestern, Toups played basketball, attended concerts and was a member of the Seekers After Knowledge sorority.

Her fondest memory of Northwestern is the beautiful campus and her teachers. There are two teachers that she distinctly remembers, Mr. Alexander who taught English and Ms. Kyser who taught psychology.

Throughout her life she has enjoyed taking trips with friends to the Smokey Mountains, California and Alabama. Toups has also enjoyed going to horse racing tracks. She has visited the Kentucky Derby and almost every track in the southern and western regions of the country.

She believes that her greatest accomplishment upon graduating from Northwestern is living a good, full life.

School, married to James B. (Jim) Akin ('81) and lives in Houston.

1982

Agnes Gerelyn Perkins Henson is retired, married and lives in Pitkin.

1983

Mary Margaret McMillin Heffington is the pediatrics nurse manager for Kaiser Permanente Medical Group and lives in Citrus Heights, Calif.

M. Susanne Crawford Wastlund is an administrative assistant for North Louisiana Partnership for Innovation (N.L.P.I), married and lives in Coushatta.

Emma Jean Claybrook Register is a weekend registered nurse at Green Meadow Haven Nursing Home, married and lives in Logansport.

1984

Sharon Kay Claussen Crotteau is a semi-retired registered nurse and lives in Duson.

1988

Keith Childress is a teacher and coach at Donaldsonville High School, married and lives in St. Amant.

1989

Karen Denisse Adams Webre is a registered nurse for mother/child at North Monroe Medical Center, married and lives in Rayville.

David Wayne Cheatham is the I.T. field manager for the Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Region, married and lives in Gallup, N.M.

Emily Salter Walker is a secondary instructional facilitator for the Rapides Parish School Board, married and lives in Alexandria.

Jon Maynard is an assistant vice president at First Federal Bank of Louisiana, married and lives in Natchitoches.

1991

Clay Robinson is a senior manager for Cingular Wireless, married and lives in Hoschton, Ga.

Joe Brister is a quality control lab manager for American Red Cross and lives in St. Louis, Mo.

1992

LeeAnna Price is the director of adult development for the Girl Scouts Pelican Council and lives in Bossier City.

Keri Lynn Moses Candies is a stay at home mom, married and lives in Luling.

Ginger Dawn LaCaze Humbles is an employee advocate for Red Simpson, Inc., married and lives in Alexandria.

1993

Madelyn Boudreaux is a technical writer for Ovid and lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tina Bonstaff is a senior program coordinator for Tulane University Health Sciences, married and lives in Metairie.

Richard Newton "Bubba" Turpen is a police officer for the Shreveport Police Department and lives in Shreveport.

Karen Kennedy Cunningham is the director of human resources for Network Multifamily Security Corporation and lives in Frisco, Texas.

Angelita D. Matthews Randolph is a senior software sales representative for International Business Machines (IBM), married and lives in Mansfield.

Kendi Hensel Pim is an assistant professor and physician at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, married and lives in Arlington, Texas.

1994

Jennifer Zimmerle is the human resources manager for Imerica Financial Corporation, married and lives in Tampa, Fla.

Shannon Collette Bolin Ebard is a homemaker, married and lives in Muskoge, Okla.

Louisa Bruch Naber is a social worker at Memorial Hermann Hospital, married and lives in Houston, Texas.

Ashley Ann Pasquier Klamfoth is a licensed clinical social worker at Northeast Regional Hospice, married to

William Klamfoth ('94) and lives in West Monroe.

Katy Marie Hendrix LaBauve is an administrator and director of nursing at Southern Home Health, married and lives in Lake Charles.

Paul Arevalo is a juvenile probation officer for Harris County Juvenile Probation, married and lives in Houston, Texas.

Jennie Marie Dewil (Sparks) Cook is a special education teacher at Anacoco High School, married to Bryan David Cook ('88) and lives in Florien.

Anna M. Sepulvado Fletcher is a homemaker, Avon representative, married and lives in Shreveport.

Wes Alost is an associate at Berine Maynard & Parson LLP and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Mary Daniele Nelson Slaton is a psychotherapist at Krist Samaritan Center, married and lives in Pearland, Texas.

Nathalie Roziers is director and head tennis pro at Sherwood Country Club and lives in Newbury Park, Calif.

1995

Gwendolyn Faye Grigg Noel is director of nursing at Home Health Community Services, married and lives in Natchitoches.

Lamuel D. Holmes is a sales consultant at Walker Honda and lives in Wildsville.

Ruth Ann Franklin Brumley is a payroll supervisor at Amerisafe, Inc. and lives in Leesville.

Steven D. Miller is an assistant football and head track coach at Olive Branch High School, married and lives in Olive Branch, Miss.

1996

Rev. Thomas H. Worsham, IV is the young adult and college minister at First Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas

Kathleen Curl is a self-employed marketing Web consultant and lives in New Orleans.

Captain Thomas A. "Andy" Fields is an assistor professor of military science at NSU and lives in Natchitoches.

Joseph Barnett is a neurology specialty account executive for Abbott laboratories, married to Courtney Melaina Schexnayder Barnett ('97) and lives in Lockport. He recently returned from a year in Iraq, where he commanded B-Co 489th EN BN, US Army Reserves and was awarded a Bronze Star for his services.

Danielle Brunet Rodrigue is employed by the Lafourche Parish School Board as a fourth grade teacher, married and lives in Lockport.

1997

Courtney Schexnayder Barnett is a homemaker, married to Joseph Barnett ('96) and lives in Prairieville.

Daren Sean Coutee is a billing specialist for XO Communications, married to Stephanie Harrell Coutee ('95) and lives in Carrollton, Texas.

Charles Henry Thomas is a consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton and lives in Washington, D.C.

1998

Tammy Joan "TJ" Marsh is an athletic trainer for inMotion Sports Medicine & Trigg Co. High School and lives in Hopkinsville, Ky.

Dylan Payne is a medical sales representative for Forest Pharmaceuticals and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Brandon H. Mitchell is a certified account representative for Allstate Insurance and lives in Silver Springs, M.D.

Daniel Roland Hardin is a special education/ educational technology teacher at Northwood High School and lives in Shreveport.

Tanesha Marchand is a teacher at NSU Middle Lab School and lives in Natchitoches.

1999

Kathleen Gillan is the coordinator of Greek life at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, co-director of the Miss ULM pageant and collegiate coordinator national officer for Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority. She lives in Monroe.

Christopher Dew is supervisor of communications and training at The University of Missouri at Rolla.

Damian Nikell Johnson is an airplane pilot for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, married and lives in Longville.

Paula K. Brown is a band director at Kerens High School and lives in Kerens, Texas

Patrick Brown is currently serving in the United States Navy and stationed in Virginia.

Robert "Keith" Franklin is a therapist at Nix Specialty, enrolled in a doctoral program at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, and will graduate August 2005, with a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision.

Angie Long Sexton is a real estate agent for Keller Williams Realty, married and lives in Tucker, Ga.

Brennan Peter Mack is a pilot for Starflite Aviation, married and lives in Pearland, Texas.

Todd Barrios ('93)

Northwestern alumni, Todd Barrios, received the Chef of the Year award.

Barrios graduated from Northwestern in 1993. He is currently working at the University Club in Baton Rouge as the executive chef. Since he graduated, Barrios has worked for various places including Al Copeland and Ruby Tuesday as a manager.

The Chef of the Year award is voted on by the American Culinary Federation, which Barrios has been a member of since 2002. He is currently president of the Baton Rouge chapter. Members of the organization nominate and vote on candidates for the award. He was very honored to receive the award because it was given to him by his peers in the industry.

Barrios graduated with a degree in hospitality and institutional services. While he attended Northwestern, he was involved with the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band drum line, Kappa Kappa Psi and Kappa Omicron Nu, an honorary organization in the Hospitality, Management and Tourism department.

His greatest memory from Northwestern is meeting his wife Sheree Griffin and his experiences in the music department.

Barrios feels his greatest accomplishment since graduation is starting a family. He currently has a five-year-old daughter and a son on the way.

His biggest aspiration for the future is to open and run his own restaurant.

Lesley Marie Roberts Vance is a homemaker, married and lives in Lynchburg, Va.

Damon Roberson is employed at the office of the Secretary of State as compliance official and lives in Baton Rouge.

2000

Brandi Renee Starks is the innkeeper at Church Street Inn and lives in Natchitoches.

Ericca Reynolds Clark is a public relations coordinator at Paragon Casino Resort, married and lives in Alexandria.

2001

Michael Bates is a route salesman for Schwan's Food Company, married and lives in Pineville

Rosemarie Bethley Finklea is an accounts payable supervisor for the state of Arkansas and lives in Beebe, Ark.

June Michot Guillory is the assistant to the director of Inst. Research and Effectiveness, married and lives in Hessmer.

Patricia Pratt Franks is a legal secretary at Dunahoe Law Firm, married and lives in Natchitoches.

2002

Brandon Mayeaux is a sales associate at Collins & Stamey Real Estate and lives in Natchitoches.

Ronald Seth Busby is an unemployment insurance tax agent for the Louisiana Department of Labor and lives in Shreveport.

Daniel Wesley Miller is an accountant at LSUHSC, married to Marsha Brandon Miller ('02) and lives in Shreveport

Kevin S. Odom is a financial advisor for Wells Fargo Financial, married and lives in Haughton.

Vanessa Rachelle Byrd Farmer is an office manager at American Civil Constructors, Inc., married and lives in Cleveland, Texas.

Jermaine Shuntez Thomas is the director of compliance at the Boys & Girls Club of Natchitoches.

2003

Michael Dean is a registered nurse at Willis Knighton Health System and lives in Shreveport.

Sara Griswold Cade is employed at Exchange Bank, married and lives in Natchitoches.

Faye Jones is a paralegal at Luneau Law Office and lives in Alexandria.

Dustin Matthews is a loan officer for First Federal Mortgage and lives in Alexandria.

Becky Jo Owens O'Neal is a teacher at Benton Middle School, married to Harlie O'Neal ('03) and lives in Bossier City.

Jennifer Tippett is a registered nurse at Willis Knighton South and lives in Bossier City

Jennifer Elizabeth Jackson Thrasher is a fifth grade teacher at Hancock North Central Elementary, married and lives in Pass Christian, Miss.

Craig Anthony Jones is a manager at UNO Chicago Grill and lives in Baltimore, Md.

Laci Jeree' Dertling is a third grade teacher at Ossun Elementary and lives in Lafayette.

Stacey Dianne Thompson Lantz is a sales representative for Yellow Book USA, married and lives in Iota.

Bruston Kade Manuel is a recruiter for Goldman Sachs Company and lives in Kinder.

2004

Amanda Johnson Waites is a library specialist at NSU, married and lives in Natchitoches.

Anthony Lee Morales is a staff registered nurse at Sand Lake Hospital, married and lives in Windermere, Fla.

Christy Rene Groves is a first grade teacher at White Hills Elementary and lives in Baton Rouge.

Arlene Denise Chamblee Brooks is an air quality inspector for the La. Department of Environmental Quality and lives in DeRidder.

Lindsey L. Huffman is a field service representative for Inter-Tribal Council (I.T.C) and site coordinator for Institute for Indian Development (I.I.D.) and lives in Wildsville.

In Memory

Dr. E. Robert Black, Colorado Springs, Colo. December 8, 2004

Dr. Gail Goodwin Bolton, January 2, 2005

Milt Tarver, December 20, 2004

William E. Timon, Jr. PhD, Natchitoches, February 7, 2005

John L. Weffenstette, Danville, Ill, January 11, 2004

Dr. Charles Lynn Bissell

'35 **Jesse L. Boucher**, Springhill, December 25, 2004

'59 **John Rabb** Cut Off, March 2005

'85 **Thelda Harris** Kerrville, Texas, February 23, 2005

Alumni Invited to Second Annual Family and Friends Cruise

The Rev. Dan Cook and Holy Cross Catholic Church of Natchitoches announce that plans for the second annual Family and Friends Cruise are underway. A limited number of vacancies are available for the five-night Western Caribbean cruise to Playa del Carmen and Cozumel, Mexico, the week of Aug. 8.

This year's cruise will be held onboard Carnival Cruise Lines Sensation and will sail out of New Orleans for two days in Mexico and five nights onboard the Sensation.

Package prices begin at $529 and include all port fees, taxes, meals, onboard entertainment and inside cabin accommodations, as well as a meet and greet party on board.

All NSU alumni, current and former faculty, staff and students, as well as friends of Holy Cross, are invited to participate, regardless of religious affiliation. Father Cook, pastor of Holy Cross, will celebrate mass daily onboard the ship for anyone interested.

"We are excited about our second annual cruise," Cook said. "We invite everyone to join us for this wonderful time of fellowship and renewing old acquaintances. We were fortunate to be able to arrange such a great price for a summertime cruise."

Round trip sailing out of New Orleans is scheduled for Aug. 8. The ship will dock at Playa del Carmen on Aug. 10. Participants can enjoy excursions, shopping and other entertainment in Cozumel on Thursday, Aug. 11.

Anyone interested in the trip can call Jared at Holy Cross Catholic Church at (318) 352-2615 or (318) 205-0896.

You can also visit www.cruise-pros.com/groups/holycross for more information, or call Lisa at 888-987-7245 ext. 12.

LOOKING BACK

The Intramural Building has been a part of Northwestern's campus for over 70 years.

The building, which used to be the men's gym, was built in the 1939. The gymnastics team was housed in the facility and all of the men's basketball games were played there.

A few years later, the building was turned over to the Recreational Center. At that time, all sports and sports offices were located in the building. The facility had a racquetball court, a weight room and a game room.

From 1939 to 1998 the only changes that were made to the building were replacing the roof, new piping and a new gymnasium floor.

In 1998, the Student Government Association proposed legislation to assess a $75 fee to students each semester that would cover the costs of renovating the Intramural Building. The student body voted and with a 65 percent majority vote, the legislation was passed.

In order to save money, the University decided to renovate the existing building instead of building a new structure. The building would be expanded from 39,000 sq. feet to 80,000 sq. feet. The new three-floor facility will include free weights, cardiovascular exercise equipment, an indoor walking track, racquetball courts, a gym, an aerobics workout area, staff offices, a computer lab and a snack bar.

The cost of the project was estimated at $6.9 million. The groundbreaking was held in March 2003. The building has not only acquired a new look, it's name has also been changed. NSU students will no longer know it as the Intramural Building but as the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center.

Read more about the new Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center in the upcoming Summer issue of the Alumni Columns.

Show your Demon Pride

Northwestern State University alumni and friends can show their school spirit to anyone who shows up at their front door. The NSU Alumni Association is offering colorful NSU welcome mats in five different styles and sizes to reflect pride in Northwestern and its athletic teams.

A rectangular mat with the university logo is available in two sizes, a 22-inch by 30-inch mat for $30 and a 34-inch by 48-inch bath mat for $50. Available for $30 each are a football-shaped 22-inch by 35-inch mat, a basketball mat 29 inches in diameter and a baseball mat 29 inches in diameter, each depicting the "Flaming N" logo. Fans can also purchase floorboard mats for their cars. Sizes are 24 inches by 18 inches for front mats, 10 inches by 17 inches for back seat mats. A pair of car mats costs $55.

"These welcome mats bring Demon spirit right to your front door," said Dr. Chris Maggio, director of Alumni and Development at NSU. "This is a fantastic way for friends of Northwestern to show pride in their alma mater."

Anyone interested in purchasing a Northwestern welcome mat can contact Janay Matt at the NSU Alumni Center at (318) 357-4415 or 1-888-799-6486 or email giblinj@nsula.edu.

Demon Fans Can Receive Updated Information Via E-mail

The Southland Conference will initiate distribution of a new monthly e-newsletter. The e-newsletter will provide dedicated fans of the league the latest information on the Southland and its institutions. Media, boosters, alumni, students and faculty are invited to subscribe.

"The Conference is not interested in sending information to individuals who do not want it," according to Tom Burnett, commissioner of the Southland Conference. "We are not sending 'spam' and we are not selling the lists to outside agencies. The newsletter has an 'opt-in, opt-out' feature that allows subscribers to eliminate any future mailings."

The project is being coordinated by Kristie Le, director of media relations for the Southland Conference.

Anyone interested in joining the e-mail list can do so by e-mailing Le at kle@southland.org or visiting the conference website at www.southland.org.

Guess Who?

Can you guess the names of these 1955 Student Council Officers? If so, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486. The first five people to call with the correct answers will win a prize!

Congratulations to the following people who knew1975-76 SUGB officers Pam Lynch, Rory Alexander, Dock Voorhies, and Doug Norris in the Winter 2004 issue.

Mr. Dock Voorhies—1975
Shreveport

Mr. Dennis Gaines—1975
Bossier City

Ms. Pamela Locke—1978
Marthaville

Alumni Information Update

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Class Notes" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date_____ SSN:_____

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.)_____
Please Circle
Last First Middle Maiden

Current address:_____

City:_____State:_____ Zip:_____

Phone:_____E-Mail:_____

NSU undergraduate degree(s):_____Year of graduation:_____

NSU graduate degree(s):_____ Year of graduation:_____

During which years did you attend NSU?_____

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU?_____

_____

_____

_____

Place of employment _____

Job title:_____Work phone:_____

Spouse's name:_____

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? ____Yes ____ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) _____Year of graduation_____

Spouse's graduate degree (s) _____Year of graduation_____

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students? Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

_____

_____

Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:

Director of University Recruiting
Northwestern
State University
South Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-4503
800-327-1903

Director of Financial Aid
Northwestern
State University
Room 109, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5961

Athletic Director
Northwestern
State University
Room 101C
Athletic Fieldhouse
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5251

Men's Basketball Celebrate First SLC Championship in 31 Years

It had been 31 years since the Northwestern State Demons basketball program last celebrated a conference championship, but the drought ended March 4 when a screaming throng of 3,299 fans in Prather Coliseum savored a 103-73 thrashing of McNeese State that clinched the Southland Conference championship for coach Mike McConathy's Demons.

That was among an impressive collection of milestones for McConathy and his sixth NSU squad, which finished the season 21-12 as regular-season SLC champions and SLC Tournament finalists. Even a 49-42 loss in the tournament championship game to Southeastern Louisiana couldn't spoil the sense of accomplishment about the 2004-05 season, or the tremendous anticipation for the 2005-06 season, when the entire starting five and all but one player from this year's team should be back aiming for another title and an NCAA Tournament berth.

McConathy has three winning seasons in his first six years as head coach. To put it in perspective, when McConathy arrived, NSU had only five winning records in 23 years since joining NCAA Division I in 1976-77. The Demons reached the SLC Tournament championship game for the third time in six seasons.

NSU surged to the Southland championship and the conference tournament title game with a 10-game winning streak. That was its longest streak in 45 years overall, including 27 seasons of Division I basketball. There hasn't been a streak of 9 wins since 1959-60, when the GSC champ Demons won 14 straight.

The Demons won 19 regular-season games for the first time since the 1959-60 Demons were 23-5. The 1973-74 (21-9), 1981-81 (19-9) and 2000-01 Demons (19-13) all had 18 or less regular-season wins.

With 21 wins, NSU had its first 20-win season in 31 years, since a 21-9 record including three postseason wins (NAIA District 30, NAIA National Tournament) in 1973-74. There have been eight previous 20-win seasons all-time (1926-27, 1948-49, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1957-58, 1959-60, 1973-74, 2004-05) since the Demons began playing hoops in 1913. NSU posted its most SLC wins (13) in 18 seasons, since the Demons joined the Southland for the 1987-88 season.

Support reached unprecedented levels during March Madness. In five homecourt appearances in March, the Demons drew an average of 3,123 fans in Prather Coliseum, including a high of 3,623 for their SLC Tournament championship game televised nationally by ESPN2.

Among those watching proudly from the stands were McConathy's parents, John and Corene McConathy, both NSU alumni. His father was an All-American for the Demons in 1951 and the No. 5 pick in the 1951 NBA Draft.

Alumni Columns
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002

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